

Recidivism

OFFENSE COMPARISON - RETURNS TO PRISON

Those convicted for drug related crimes are an ever-increasing part of Washington State inmate populations.¹ Because of this, the Washington State Department of Corrections has decided to research the issue of whether recidivism rates among DOC releasees differ by offense type.

In this paper, recidivism is defined as a return to a Washington State adult correctional facility by an offender who either has been paroled or been discharged from such a facility. These returns can be the result of new felony convictions or technical violations of parole conditions. Subsequent commitments to other correctional jurisdictions are not accounted for, nor are returns beyond five years at risk. Use of these parameters leads to the following findings on returns by offense type.

Average Percent Return to Prison					
OFFENSE	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Property*	16.5	13.2	7.3	4.5	3.0
Person**	9.1	9.4	6.1	3.9	2.6
Drug	6.4	7.9	5.0	3.8	2.8
Sex	4.2	5.3	3.9	2.7	1.7
Overall Average	9.9	9.6	5.9	3.9	2.6

Detailed information is provided on the back of this page.

ANALYSIS: Five Year at Risk Summary

The release cohorts from 1985 through 1993 have had at least five years at risk. Overall, the five-year return rate is 32 percent. The return rates by offense category are as follows:

Property*	44%
Person**	31%
Drug	26%
Sex	19%

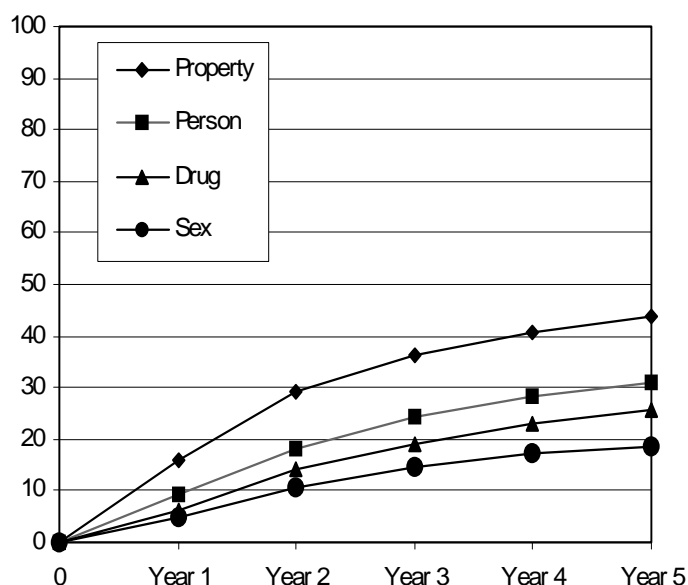
The differences in the return rates by offense are significant at the .001 level.

* Includes "Other" Offenses

** Other than Sex Offense

¹ "Can Drug Courts Save Money for Washington State Taxpayers?" Washington State Institute for Public Policy, January 1999, page 1.

Average Percent Returned to Prison During the Five Years Following Release



Percent Return

Offense	# Released					
Property (and other)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1985	1276	11.8	10.3	4.5	4.7	3.1
1986	1208	12.9	9.9	6.0	4.4	3.6
1987	1002	13.3	10.4	8.4	3.9	3.2
1988	982	20.0	14.7	7.4	4.7	1.8
1989	800	20.4	14.8	7.0	3.4	2.4
1990	988	19.8	15.7	8.4	4.4	3.2
1991	978	18.9	12.6	7.6	4.5	3.4
1992	1236	15.7	14.0	7.5	5.2	3.5
1993	1173	16.3	14.5	7.6	5.1	2.6
1994	1209	15.0	13.7	8.5	4.6	
1995	1229	17.3	13.5	7.8		
1996	1199	18.1	15.4			
1997	1416	17.1				
Average		16.5	13.2	7.3	4.5	3

Person (other than sex)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1985	678	8.4	8.7	4.7	2.4	4.1
1986	907	6.8	7.4	5.0	5.4	4.2
1987	985	9.3	9.0	5.6	4.4	1.8
1988	1072	11.1	11.7	7.8	3.9	1.0
1989	794	12.1	8.8	5.3	2.9	1.6
1990	829	10.7	10.9	6.0	3.7	2.2
1991	816	9.9	7.6	4.9	3.2	2.3
1992	1090	7.4	8.2	6.2	4.6	3.3
1993	1088	7.7	9.8	7.3	3.7	3.0
1994	1088	7.9	9.1	6.7	4.1	
1995	1156	9.4	9.3	6.1		
1996	1163	8.1	11.0			
1997	1169	9.8				
Average		9.1	9.4	6.1	3.9	2.6

Drug		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1985	140	2.9	5.7	5.7	7.1	3.6
1986	141	9.2	4.3	2.1	5.0	2.8
1987	233	2.6	5.6	4.3	4.3	2.1
1988	384	5.2	6.8	3.1	2.3	1.3
1989	725	7.0	8.4	5.5	2.6	2.9
1990	941	9.4	9.0	4.8	4.4	2.3
1991	1014	6.8	8.7	4.8	3.1	3.3
1992	1219	5.9	8.4	5.1	4.9	3.1
1993	1479	5.8	8.0	4.9	3.5	3.0
1994	1723	6.6	7.0	4.8	3.8	
1995	1651	5.2	7.4	5.7		
1996	1854	7.2	8.5			
1997	2003	6.3				
Average		6.4	7.9	5	3.8	2.8

Sex		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1985	200	10.5	8.5	5.0	5.0	2.0
1986	398	3.8	6.8	3.3	4.8	1.8
1987	688	3.5	5.8	5.8	2.5	2.5
1988	799	6.9	7.0	5.5	2.5	1.1
1989	551	7.8	7.1	2.9	1.6	1.8
1990	464	3.9	5.0	1.7	3.4	1.3
1991	494	5.1	4.4	2.2	2.8	1.2
1992	524	3.2	3.6	4.2	2.5	1.5
1993	553	2.7	4.7	4.2	2.2	2.4
1994	492	3.2	4.7	3.2	1.8	
1995	483	2.1	3.5	3.9		
1996	461	2.6	3.7			
1997	542	1.8				
Average		4.2	5.3	3.9	2.7	1.7
Overall Average		9.9	9.6	5.9	3.9	2.6

Five Year At-Risk Analysis Release years 1985-1993						
Offense	(# Released)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Property	9,643	16.2	12.8	7.0	4.5	3.0
Person	8,259	9.2	9.2	6.0	3.9	2.6
Drug	6,276	6.5	8.1	4.8	3.8	2.8
Sex	4,671	5.0	5.8	4.0	2.8	1.7
Total	28,849	10.3	9.6	5.8	3.9	2.6